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March 8, 2011
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MAJOR REFORM BILL NOW HEADS TO GOVERNOR

BOISE – The Idaho House today approved Senate Bill 1108, one of the major reform bills that make up the Students Come First plan introduced by Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.

“This is a great step forward. Not only will this bill save more than \$9 million for our public schools, but it also implements major education reforms that we have talked about for years,” Superintendent Luna said.

The Students Come First reform package is made up of three different bills: Senate Bills 1108, 1110, and 1113. Senate Bill 1108 returns authority and flexibility to the locally elected school boards by phasing out tenure, limiting collective bargaining agreements to one year, tying teacher and administrator evaluations to student achievement, and giving Idaho parents input on teacher performance evaluations.

Senate Bill 1110 implements a pay-for-performance plan that will recognize and reward Idaho’s teachers for working in hard-to-fill positions, taking on leadership responsibilities, and working in a school that shows academic growth. Teachers could earn up to \$8,000 in bonuses a year under this plan.

Senate Bill 1108 now heads to the Governor’s desk. The House is expected to take up Senate Bill 1110 on Wednesday morning.

Senate Bill 1113, which is in the Senate Education Committee now, will reform the classroom and better prepare Idaho kids for the 21st century by stabilizing the state’s public schools budget, restoring teacher pay, infusing an unprecedented amount of technology in the classroom, and requiring students to take online courses before graduation. Superintendent Luna is working with senators on suggested changes to this bill, and a new bill should be introduced soon in committee.

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/studentsComeFirst/>.

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